

Application No.: 10/561,662

Docket No.: JCLA13942

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action rejected claims 3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Office Action further rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP (09-112560).

The Office Action further rejected claims 2-3 as being unpatentable over JP (09-112560) in view of JP (2002-364647).

The Office Action further rejected claims 5-9 as being unpatentable over JP (09-112560) in view of JP (2002-364647).

The Office Action further rejected claims 10 and 13 as being unpatentable over JP (09-112560) in view of JP (04-152296).

The Office Action further rejected claims 14-18 as being unpatentable over JP (09-112560) in view of JP (2002-364647).

The Office Action further rejected claims 11-12 as being unpatentable over JP (09-112560) in view of JP (04-152296).

Applicants have amended claim 3 and 12 to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph.

Applicants further added new claims 19-30, support of which can be found from the specification and the drawings.

The rest claims remain unchanged.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 USC 112

The Office Action rejected claims 3 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Application No.: 10/561,662

Docket No.: JCLA13942

In response thereto, Applicants have amended claims 3 and 12, and submitted that claims 3 and 12, as currently amended, are now in their allowable forms with respect to the requirement as set forth in 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 USC 102

The Office Action further rejected claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP (09-112560).

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejections and submit that the present invention, as set forth in claims 1 and 4 is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by JP (09-112560) or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

With regard to claim 1, as previously presented, recites:

A slide bearing comprising:

a matrix made of a metal; and

a slide layer formed on a predetermined surface of the matrix and having a bearing surface which slides with a shaft member, wherein

the matrix has a contact surface which performs one of rolling and sliding over a mating member and the matrix is made of an Fe-based sintered metal material.

(Emphasis added)

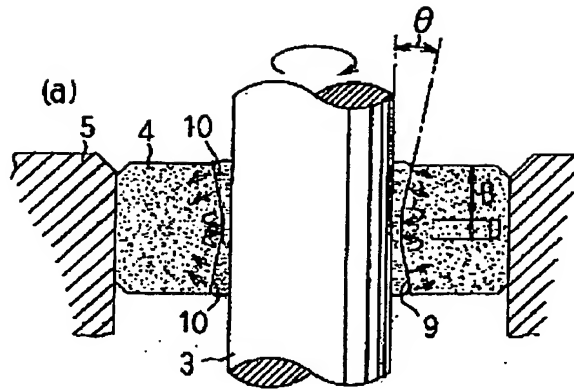
Applicants submit that none of the cited references, has taught, disclosed, or suggested the limitation of **“a slide layer formed on a predetermined surface of the matrix and having a bearing surface which slides with a shaft member”, and “the matrix has a contact surface which performs one of rolling and sliding over a mating member”.**

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner contended: “JP(09-112560) discloses a slide bearing comprising a matrix (4) made of metal, a slide layer (5) formed on a predetermined surface of the matrix and having a bearing surface which slides with a shaft member (3) ...”.

Application No.: 10/561,662

Docket No.: JCLA13942

【図1】



As shown in the drawings of JP(09-112560), e.g., Fig. 1 (a) as below, if item 4 is considered as reading on the matrix 4, item 5 would not deem to read on the slide layer, because the slide layer is required as "having a bearing surface which slides with a shaft member". However, item 5 does not have any surface sliding with a shaft member, i.e., item 3. Therefore, if any, it is the item 10 which is more likely to read on the slide layer. However, in this case, the matrix, i.e., item 4 does not satisfy the limitation of **"the matrix has a contact surface which performs one of rolling and sliding over a mating member"**. As shown in the drawings, the item 4 is fixed or clamped by item 5, so that item 4 does not perform any rolling or sliding over any mating member.

Further, claim 1 recites the limitation of "the matrix is made of an Fe-based sintered metal material". This is effective when a part of surface of the matrix is used as a rolling face over a mating member. The contact surface of the matrix is hardly damaged, and a high durability can be obtained.

However, this limitation is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by the cited reference, JP (09-112560).

Another cited reference, JP (2002-364647) mentions a Cu-Sn sintered metal layer. However, the Cu-Sn layer is just an example of which has the structure or the material and supplies a lubrication oil to the sliding surface of synthetic resin layer.

Application No.: 10/561,662

Docket No.: JCLA13942

Therefore, claim 1, as previously presented, is neither taught, disclosed, nor suggested by JP(09-112560), or any of the other cited references, taken alone or in combination, and thus should be allowed.

Claim 4 depends upon allowable independent claim 1, and thus should also be allowable.

Discussion of the claim rejection under 35 USC 103

The Office Action further rejected claims 2-3 as being unpatentable over JP (09-112560) in view of JP (2002-364647).

JP 2002-364647 cannot cure the above discussed deficiencies of JP 09-112560. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over JP 09-112560 and JP 2002-364647. Claims 2-3 depend on allowable independent claim 1, and thus should also be allowable.

The Office Action further rejected claims 5-9 as being unpatentable over JP (09-112560) in view of JP (2002-364647).

Claims 5-9 depend on allowable independent claim 1, and thus should also be allowable.

The Office Action further rejected claims 10 and 13 as being unpatentable over JP (09-112560) in view of JP (04-152296).

Claim 10 recites also subject matters as set forth in claim 1, and thus should also be allowable.

Claim 13 depends on allowable independent claim 10, and thus should also be allowable.

The Office Action further rejected claims 14-18 as being unpatentable over JP (09-112560) in view of JP (2002-364647).

Claims 14-18 depend on allowable independent claim 10, and thus should also be allowable.

The Office Action further rejected claims 11-12 as being unpatentable over JP (09-112560) in view of JP (04-152296).

**RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER**

AUG 20 2008

Application No.: 10/561,662

Docket No.: JCLA13942

Claims 11-12 depend on allowable independent claim 10, and thus should also be allowable.

New Claims

Claims 19-30 are newly added, depending directly or indirectly upon independent claims 1 and 10, and thus should also be allowable.

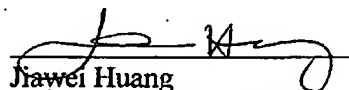
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-18, and newly added claims 19-30 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: 8-20-2008

4 Venture, Suite 250
Irvine, CA 92618
Tel.: (949) 660-0761
Fax: (949)-660-0809

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. PATENTS


Jiawei Huang
Registration No. 43,330